



# NEWS RELEASE

# UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

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## **STUDENTS CREATE MARS IN ALBUQUERQUE**

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. – Shown are more than 1,100 students from around New Mexico constructing a Mars “colony” out of plastic sheets and duct tape at the Mars Membrane Mirror Mission Link-Up Day at the Albuquerque Convention Center April 28. The fifth-graders came from 34 schools, along with teachers, volunteers and sixth-grade mentors. Visitors to the event included Dr. Elizabeth Everitt, Albuquerque Public Schools Superintendent, Dr. Bruce Simpson, director, Air Force Research Laboratory Directed Energy Directorate, and representatives from KOB-TV. The event is a culmination of the student’s year-long efforts at learning about the red planet. The project, or mission, is a part of the AF STARBASE© La Luz Academy curriculum, designed to teach students about teamwork, problem-solving, and to enhance their study of math, science, and engineering.